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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
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COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

Vol. 1 For two-week period ending October 12, 1951 No. 6

This will be the last regular release of this Report for the calender year 1951. We express our appreciation for the cooperation and increased interest you have shown in this undertaking during the past season.

During the coming winter months special reports will be released on economic insect subjects of especial interest. Present plans call for releasing the "Summary of Insect Conditions in 1951" in January. All cooperators should continue to submit reports emphazing fall insect populations as compared to those considered normal, information on hibernation, and other items that may give indications of possible insect developments **for** 1952. Information on special surveys conducted in your State concerning insects common to other States would thus serve a very useful purpose.

To aid future policy in this cooperative effort, a special session will be held at the joint meetings in Cincinnati starting at 1:30 P. M. Thursday, December 13. Plan to attend this special session and participate in the discussions as to how these cooperative surveys can function to best serve agriculture. The following is the tentative program:

Chairman: Avery S. Hoyt, Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

1. History of State-Federal Insect Pest Surveys. J. J. Davis, Chief in Entomology, Purdue University

2. Importance and Value of Economic Insect Surveys to our National Agriculture. George C. Decker, Entomologist and Head, Section of Economic Entomology, Illinois State Natural History Survey

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3. Importance to Industry of Economic Insect Surveys. Lea S. Hitchner, Executive Secretary and Treasurer, National Agricultural Chemical Association

4. Economic Insect Surveys in Relation to Biological Warfare Defense. M. R. Clarkson, Special Assistant to the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration in Charge of Defense Efforts

5. State Surveys in Relation to National Insect Problems. H. M. Armitage, Chief, Bureau of Entomology, California State Department of Agriculture

6. A Program for Federal-State Cooperative Economic Insect Surveys. Kelvin Dorward, Entomologist, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

Summary of Insect Conditions

Fall armyworm damaging grasses, alfalfa, soybeans, etc. in South Carolina, Louisiana, and Texas.

Velvetbean caterpillar damaging soybeans, cowpeas, and Kudzu in southern Louisiana.

Sugarcane borer infestation light throughout the sugarcane belt of Louisiana.

Red-banded leaf roller third-brood damaging a few orchards in northeastern Ohio last week of September.

Mexican bean beetle injuring late-planted beans in several localities.

Corn earworm injuring beans in some Atlantic States and Tennessee.

Boll weevil favored by rains during September; an increase in populations to go into hibernation is expected. Emphasis is being placed on a clean-up of stalks.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

European corn borer (Pyrausta nubilalis (Hbn.)) -- Infestation and injury in Maine generally light to moderate; however, higher in southern Maine than in 1950. (Insect Conditions in Maine, August 15-September 15). The second-brood lighter in Massachusetts than usual, especially in western part of State. (A. I. Bourne).

Corn earworm (Heliothis armigera (Hbn.)) -- Infestation more widespread than usual in Maine, injury moderate, except in Penobscot County where injury was severe, but no control measures used. (Insect Conditions in Maine, August 15-September 15). Considerably less abundant than usual in Massachusetts. (F. H. Wheeler). Sweet corn planted in a tomato field in Orange County, Calif., heavily infested the first week of September. (EPQ).

Fall armyworm (Laphygma frugiperda (A. & S.)) -- Infestation in Maine lighter than in 1950. (J. H. Hawkins). The outstanding insect pest of South Carolina in September. Damage to alfalfa, soybeans, Bermuda grass, fescue, and other pasture plants. (Insect and Plant Disease Notes, News Letter, Clemson Agr. Coll.). Damaging young oats in the Baton Rouge district of Louisiana first week of October. (C. E. Smith). Some damage to pasture grasses and cover crops in lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. (A. N. White).

Armyworm (Cirphis unipuncta (Haw.)) -- Some damage to pasture grasses and cover crops in lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. (A. N. White).

Yellow-striped armyworm (Prodenia ornithogalli Guen.) -- Localized infestations in Washington County, Utah, where various plants including vegetable crops being damaged. (G. F. Knowlton).

Velvetbean caterpillar (Anticarsia gemmatilis (Hbn.)) -- Some defoliation of soybeans, cowpeas, and kudzu at Baton Rouge, La. (L. D. Newsom).

Eastern Lubber grasshopper (Romalea microptera (Beauv.)) -- A few reports of damage to forage crops in the lower Piedmont section of South Carolina during mid-September. (Insect and Plant Disease Notes, News Letter, Clemson Agr. Coll.).

Sugarcane borer (Diatraea saccharalis (F.)) -- Infestation light throughout sugarcane belt of La. Recent rains will probably cause considerable numbers for hibernation. (A. L. Dugas).

Summary of the Insecticide Situation

Since the appearance of the note relative to the shortage of sulfur, Cooperative Economic Insect Report, Vol. 1, No. 4, September 14, 1951, inquiry has been made regarding substitutes. Agriculture in National Defense, No. 21, September 26, 1951 gives the following:

"Pesticides for 1952 -- In view of the expected shortage in sulfur, increased production of certain alternate materials which can partially replace sulfur as a pesticide is being planned, according to Department officials. Alternate materials include the dithiocarbamate fungicides, which may be substituted in considerable part for sulfur in control of plant diseases, and Aramite, Sulphenone, Parathion, TEPP, and EPN which may be used to replace sulfur to control mites in some situations. These alternate materials should be more readily available in 1952 than in 1951. One factor which complicates the situation, however, is an expected severe shortage in the overall supply of steel drums and pails. Such containers will be needed for shipping some of the sulfur substitutes. A review of this situation is being planned by PMA.

A critical shortage of lead, intensified by recent strikes in the industry, will affect production of lead arsenate. The present outlook is that lead arsenate, cooper compounds, liquid grain fumigants, as well as dusting sulfur, may be in short supply next crop year."

There is a critical shortage of aluminum foil for use as barriers in Arizona, where salt-marsh caterpillars are migrating from cotton and weed fields to vegetable crops, especially lettuce.

FRUIT INSECTS

Red-banded leaf roller (Argyrotaenia velutinana (Wlkr.)) -- Severe damage by third-brood in a few orchards in northeastern Ohio last week of September. (C. R. Cutright).

Yellow-necked caterpillar (Datana ministra (Drury)) -- Severe on apple trees in localized infestations in Tennessee. (J. C. Moser).

Apple maggot (Rhagoletis pomonella (Walsh)) -- Emergence heavy on apple in central and southern Maine; some evidence of increased infestation. Infestation and injury to blueberries light to severe. (Insect Conditions in Maine, August 15-September 15. F. H. Lathrop). Much more prevalent on apple in Massachusetts than in last few years and the activity of flies extended much later than usual. Maggots plentiful and flies present in some orchards middle of September. Serious injury to Bartlett pears at Marlboro, Middlesex County in eastern Massachusetts. (E. H. Wheeler and W. D. Whitcomb).

Apple aphid (Aphis pomi Deg.) -- Infestation more general and severe than usual in southern Maine. (W. S. Rove and F. H. Lathrop).

Peach silver mite (Vasates cornutus (Banks)) -- Damaging peach orchards in Wenatchee district of Washington. (E. W. Anthon).

European red mite (Paratetranychus pilosus (C. & F.)) -- Infestation unusually severe early in the spring in Maine. Populations did not increase so rapidly as expected during the summer. Injury light to severe in southern part of State. (F. H. Lathrop).

VEGETABLE INSECTS

Mexican bean beetle (Epilachna varivestis Muls.) -- Infestation and injury in Maine light to moderate generally, severe injury in Penobscot County, where control not practiced. (Insect Conditions in Maine, August 15-September 15). Abundant late in the season in Massachusetts. (W. D. Whitcomb). Moderate numbers of larvae on beans in eastern Virginia. Light infestations at Charleston, S. C. Moderate infestations in southern Georgia and fairly heavy infestations in northwestern Florida. Decreasing in northwestern Tennessee. Damaging late-planted beans at Columbus, Ohio. (EPQ).

Cabbage caterpillars -- Damage to cabbage and related crops light to moderate generally. (EPQ).

Corn earworm (Heliothis armigera (Hbn.)) -- Light infestation on snap beans and heavy infestation on collards in eastern Virginia. (EPQ and State cooperating). Light injury to beans in Charleston district of South Carolina, southern Georgia, and northwestern Florida. Severe damage to beans and moderate damage to cabbage in northwestern Tennessee. Light damage to tomato at Columbus, Ohio. Infestations heavy on fall tomatoes in southern California. (EPQ).

Lesser cornstalk borer (Elasmopalpus lignosellus (Zell.)) -- Outbreaks on snap beans and soybeans throughout South Carolina occurred in September. (Insect and Plant Disease Notes, News Letter, Clemson Agr. Coll.). Seriously injuring beans and peas in Manatee County, Fla. (E. G. Kelsheimer).

Hornworms (Protoparce spp.) -- More abundant than usual on tomato, eggplant, and pepper in Charleston district of South Carolina. (EPQ). Heavy infestations on tobacco in South Carolina the last half of August. (Insect and Plant Disease Notes, News Letter, Clemson Agr. Coll.). Light infestations on tomato in northwestern Florida and on tobacco and potato in northwestern Tennessee. (EPQ).

Pepper maggot (Zonosemata electa (Say)) -- Several reports of injury to pepper in Massachusetts. (A. I. Bourne).

Pepper weevil (Anthonomus eugenii Cano) -- Light infestation on pepper in San Diego County, Calif., first week of September. (EPQ).

Hawaiian beet webworm (Hymenia recurvalis (F.)) -- Light infestations on early spinach in eastern Virginia the last week of September. (EPQ and State cooperating).

Garden webworm (Loxostege similalis (Guen.)) -- Light to moderate infestations on spinach throughout New Jersey the third week of September. (O. Starnes).

Salt-marsh caterpillars (Estigmene acrea (Drury)) -- Heavy populations migrating from cotton and weed fields to vegetable crops, especially lettuce in Salt River Valley of Arizona. (EPQ).

Cabbage looper (Trichoplusia ni (Hbn.)) -- Egg deposition and hatching heavy on broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, endive and lettuce in the Salt River Valley of Arizona. Some lettuce has an average of 10 eggs per plant, requiring insecticide applications. (EPQ).

COTTON INSECTS

Boll weevil (Anthonomus grandis Boh.) -- Rains during September made favorable conditions for the weevil in many localities, and an increase in the population to go into hibernation is expected. (EPQ).

Bollworms (Heliothis spp. et el) -- Late-maturing cotton in southeastern Virginia being injured. (W. L. Howe). Destroying squares in Shreveport district of Louisiana. (L. D. Newsom). Injuring cotton in localized places in southern Arizona. (Weekly Cotton Insect Report, Univ. Ariz.).

Pink bollworm (Pectinophora gossypiella (Saund.)) -- Found in Navarro County, Sept. 21, Freestone County, Oct. 2, and Robertson County, Oct. 3, making total of nine newly infested counties in Texas this year. (EPQ).

Cotton leafworm (Alabama argillacea (Hbn.)) -- Infestations scattered throughout Shreveport district of Louisiana. (L. D. Newsom). Sufficiently abundant in some localized areas of the Plains section of West Texas to warrant control the last week of September. (A. C. Gunter).

A Cerambycid (Hippopsis lemniscata (F.)) -- Injuring kenaf in Florida, where infestation ranges as high as 60 percent in one commercial planting near Belle Glade and over 75 percent in experimental plots at the Stations. This species normally attacks ragweed, Bidens, Amaranth, etc. Another cerambycid, Leiopus sp. is attacking the older and woodier stalks of kenaf. (Wm. Genung, Everglades Exp. Sta.).

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

European chafer (Amphimallon majalis (Raz.)) -- First specimens from Connecticut taken in roadside plantings of Juniperus sp. on the Wilbur Cross Parkway in the town of Meriden on July 1 and 5, 1951. (Det. E. A. Chapman. This is the first time this pest has been collected in the United States, outside of the State of New York.

Mr. M. P. Zappe, Deputy State Entomologist of Connecticut, reported September 26, 1951 that "the Connecticut State Highway Department has treated all their property along the highway, using DDT at the rate of 50 pounds of actual DDT per acre. At the present time the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is engaged in treating private property in the immediate vicinity of the infestation, using chlordane emulsion and parathion.

There are no nurseries in the area, the nearest one being five miles away."

Argentine ant (Iridomyrmex humilis Mayr) -- Annoying infestations at Gray Court, Laurens County, S. C. where women were forced to store their nylon hose in glass jars to prevent damage. (Insect and Plant Disease Notes, News Letter, Clemson Agr. Coll.).

Received too late to include with Cereal and Forage Insects:

Sweetclover weevil (Sitona cylindricollis Fahr.) -- A moderate infestation in alfalfa in Madison County, Mont. Defoliation heaviest in the field margins. (J. P. Corkins).

Wheat-stem sawfly (Cephus cinctus Nort.) -- Damage in Sheridan, Valley, Teton, and Blaine Counties, Mont. Light to moderate damage in other areas of the State. (J. P. Corkins).

Field cricket (Acheta assimilis F.) -- Damaging alfalfa hay in stacks and bales in several fields throughout central and eastern Montana. (J. P. Corkins). Injuring pastures and fall seedings in Tennessee. (J. C. Moser).